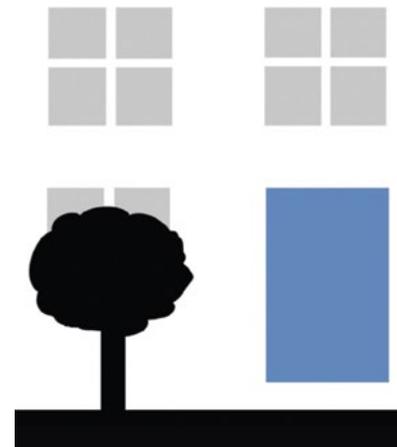
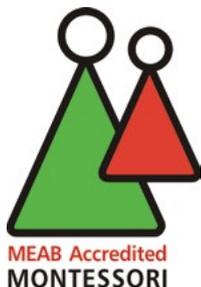


The Children's Room

Montessori Nursery School



The only accredited Montessori Nursery School in South Wales



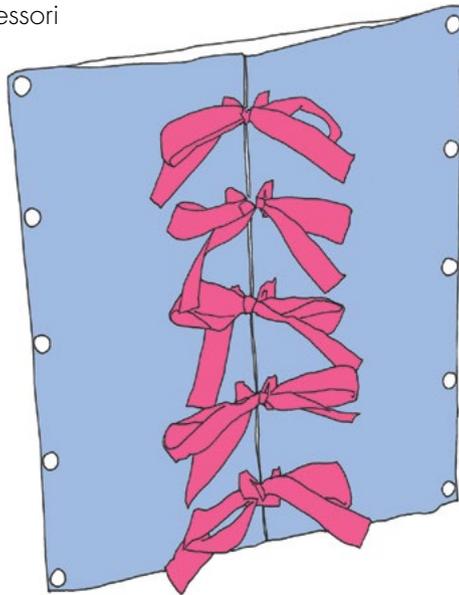
Welcome

Located in the peaceful environment of St James Gardens in Uplands, Swansea, the Children's Room is a privately run Montessori nursery school. It is the only accredited nursery school in Wales run according to the unique child-centred Montessori approach to early education.

Our staff are a highly trained and supportive team and, as such, have a genuine interest in delivering the Montessori principles to the children in our care.

We are equally committed to creating and maintaining strong links with parents and carers. To facilitate this we send out monthly newsletters to keep you informed of nursery events, host regular information evenings to give you a deeper insight into the Montessori methods and run individual tours by arrangement.

Children in the Baby Room and Pre-Nursery have a day book so that we can communicate their activities during their time with us. We use the 'My Montessori Child' web-based reporting programme to record teachers' observations, create development plans, and help parents and carers to follow and support their child. We are the only school using this programme in Wales. Please see www.mymontessorichild.com for more information and background about this innovation.



I have seen the success and joy of the Montessori method across the world, having worked in schools in London and the Far East, including working in a Montessori school in Singapore for two years. Bringing these principles back home to Swansea was a dream that has now been realised.

Our aim is to nurture every child that comes through our door and provide them with a secure and happy environment in which to grow.

Liz
Liz Byatt, Owner

Montessori

Operating within a calm and serene setting, The Children's Room provides much more than a traditional nursery environment for children from 3 months to 5 years old.

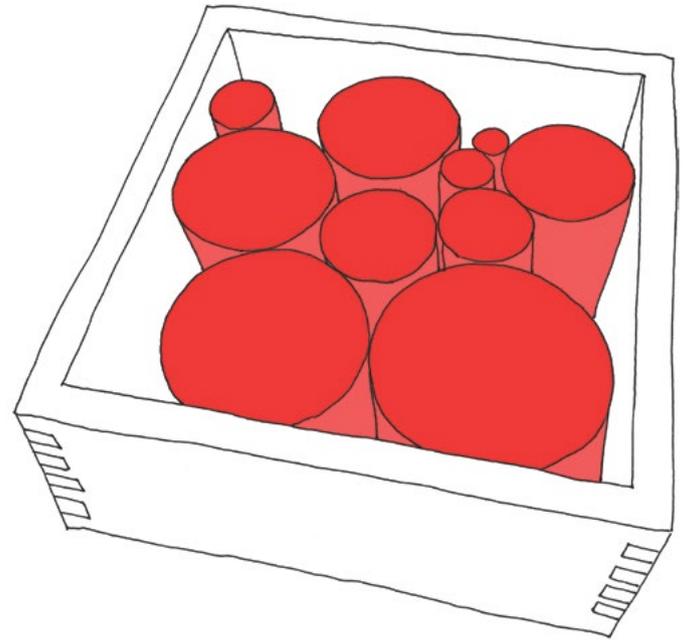
Through her research and studies of children, Dr Maria Montessori (1870–1952) developed a unique form of teaching. She believed that the individual child's natural potential should be nurtured to help them learn and develop in a healthy, child-centred social environment, both in the nursery and at home.

The Children's Room endorses and follows the Montessori principles and our aim here at the nursery is to give every child an excellent start in the kind of learning that he or she will benefit from throughout their life.

Consequently, by providing a stimulating environment, the Children's Room team concentrates on developing the all-round social and emotional intelligence of each child.

Our Montessori Nursery environment is a home away from home where children are free to enjoy themselves while developing at their own pace. We utilise specialist furniture and equipment to support the children's learning. All the equipment is child-sized to assist easy accessibility which adheres to fundamental Montessori principles.

We provide natural, quality materials which help the children develop key learning skills and encourage them to explore the world around them and become increasingly independent.



The Curriculum

The Montessori curriculum we follow at The Children's Room encompasses a diverse range of activities which allow children to explore, experience and understand. Here, our pupils are likely to be learning and playing in small groups, or perhaps with their nursery teacher, but there is also plenty of time to learn and play on their own and in their own time.

The Montessori curriculum is divided into 6 areas of learning:

Practical Life exercises help a child grow in motor skills, cognitive (knowing through learning) development, self-confidence, development of his or her personality and, most of all, independence. They encourage the 'I can do it myself' approach that all young children possess.

Sensorial activities help the child to learn through their senses and allow them to start to understand his or her surroundings. The materials are designed to help the child's mind focus on some particular quality, e.g. wooden rods that teach ideas of length and building up towers to teach comparisons of height. One of the aspects of the Montessori approach is that wherever possible natural materials are used instead of plastics and synthetics.

Maths is brought into everyday life and the equipment in this area really helps the children understand the different concepts and ideas within mathematics, such as looking at volume by pouring a small jug of water into a big jug or using number rods to learn about quantity.



“The human hand allows the mind to reveal itself.” – Maria Montessori

Language The Montessori classroom is designed in such a way that all activities gear themselves naturally towards the development of the skills required for oral and written language and reading. In this environment we encourage self-expression through communication between children, their peers and adults.

Culture covers a variety of subjects including Geography, History, Zoology and Biology. We have our very own culture room where children can, for example, wear costumes of the national dress from different countries of the world, or use map puzzles to learn about the physical world.

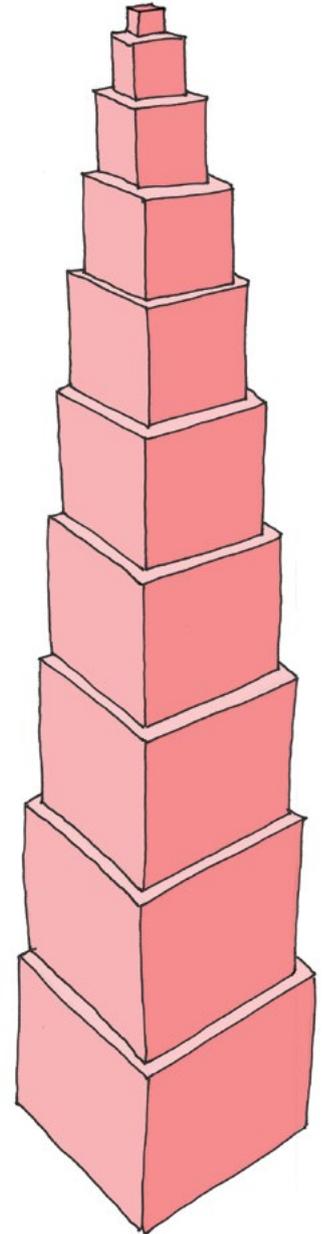
Art & Creativity – We have a large variety of art and craft materials available at all times in case someone feels the need to express their creativity. We also host regular music and movement sessions which help the children learn to express themselves in different ways.

The Montessori approach is unique in that every detail of the environment is planned to meet the needs of the developing child. Adults treat children with respect and allow them the freedom to choose their own activities, because what a child chooses freely is something in which we know he or she is genuinely interested.

The teacher in a Montessori classroom is more of a guide and facilitator, respecting the concentration and varied learning approaches of each child.

“The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences.”

Maria Montessori



Baby Room & Pre-Nursery

The Children's Room Montessori Nursery has baby facilities in two large, bright and sunny rooms overlooking the trees of St. James Gardens.

Children can join the Baby Room from **3 months of age** and we have a high teacher to child ratios of 1:3.

We provide a unique baby-led approach within an intimate, nurturing and safe environment. The practical life and Montessori materials are introduced into the daily routine as appropriate.

In accordance with Montessori principles, the children can move freely between the two rooms.

We encourage the children to engage in the practical activities of everyday life such as pegging, folding, preparing a snack, washing or sweeping as well as art, singing and other musical experiences.

Through play, stories and songs children begin to develop their imaginations and the ability to communicate. The transformation over the weeks and months is a pleasure to observe.

At around 18 months the children move into the bright and sunny upper rooms which is an environment designed to teach them the skills and independence necessary for a smooth transition into Nursery at around 2½.

The six areas of learning are introduced at this stage and we see a rapid acceleration of learning and development, especially in the area of language. We also start to encourage children to come upstairs separately from their parents, at around this age – a big step towards independence.

Children in Pre-Nursery spend the last half an hour of the day downstairs in the main Nursery Rooms to familiarize themselves with the older children and their future surroundings, to ease the move to Nursery.



Nursery

At around the age of 2½ when children enter our Nursery School they are given the opportunity to learn and explore at their own pace in a safe environment.

Maria Montessori said that the hands were the tools of the brain and if allowed to move freely and choose work independently in an environment designed purely for the child, then each individual would naturally grow and progress.

Surrounded by Montessori materials and other tactile and beautiful things children are encouraged to experiment and learn. Their involvement in practical and sensorial activities helps them absorb valuable information about the world around them and teach them life skills.

The children's social and academic skills are significantly developed by the experience of learning in mixed age groups.

The youngest child in each group is surrounded by role models a little more developed than themselves. Similarly, the older children find themselves in a position of responsibility, and, by showing younger children what they know, affirms to themselves the extent of his or her learning. It is wonderful to watch.

Supporting parents at home

We believe that to ensure your child gets the most from their time at The Children's Room it is important we work closely with you.



Once your child is registered with The Children's Room each family will receive a copy of 'Learning Together' by Kathi Hughes, an invaluable guide to how you can adopt Montessori principles in your home life.

Contact

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